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W. W. (Bill) Gratz
MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
113TH DISTRICT

Committees
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Appropriations –
General Administration
Agriculture
Environment and Energy
Administration and Accounts

January 16, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney – Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street Northwest, Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

Over the years, I have found that when negotiations result in a little something for everyone, the negotiations were successful. This is exactly the result of the recent negotiations between Microsoft and the U.S. Department of Justice. The settlement allows Microsoft to create new generation products that can help the economy grow and help businesses better communicate with their customers and clients. Additionally, the needs and concerns of Microsoft's competitors were taken into account in the final agreement.

I support the recent agreement between the Justice Department and Microsoft.

I regret that a Committee and the court system have had a hand in developing the future of software design instead of the free market. At the same time, this entire process was an effort on the part of competitors to cripple Microsoft and eliminate competition.

Point-of-sale should be the true test of competition. Either your product is marketable or it is not. The courts and regulatory agencies have no role in this important process when job creation and small business development is at stake.

Sincerely,

W. W. (Bill) Gratz
W. W. (Bill) Gratz

WG/lh